

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, had I been here on September 7, 2007, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Newton Memorial Hospital on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. As it celebrates its diamond anniversary, I share the sentiments of all Newton area residents who are grateful for the integral role the hospital plays in their community.

The hospital was founded in 1932 out of the bequest of the estate of Thomas E. Murray. With his gift, as well as half a million in funds raised through a community financial campaign, the Newton Hospital Foundation began to plan construction of a hospital facility off of Route 94 in Newton, NJ. When it opened its doors that year, it had 40 acute care beds and 10 bassinets. That initial facility is now the Administration Building. The Sussex County community rapidly grew and the hospital grew with it. By 1951, the hospital constructed a new building, adding 60 more inpatient beds, a complete maternity suite with a newborn nursery of 20 beds, and expanded ancillary and diagnostic services.

And, as the community continued to grow, Newton Memorial Hospital kept pace, adding buildings, beds, and land. By the year 2000, Newton Memorial had opened the Sparta Health and Wellness Center to provide off-campus outpatient diagnostics and treatment, a state of the art emergency room and surgical suites, and more. In that year, 10,262 patients were admitted for inpatient and same-day surgery cases, including 750 births. And, in 2001, the hospital extended its care over the border into Pike County, Pennsylvania, with its Milford Health and Wellness Center.

Newton Memorial Hospital's continuing efforts to meet the needs of the community are shepherded by a superior staff, dedicated volunteers, and an active and capable Foundation. As a Sussex County resident, I understand how comforting it is to know that we are served by the Newton Memorial Hospital and I join the community in wishing them the best for another 75 years of superior care.

TRIBUTE TO ERIK NOWAK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Erik Nowak of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, who was recently named U.S. Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Specialist Nowak had only been enlisted in the National Guard for just 16 months before he was selected by his squad leader to participate in his company's board competition. In just one day, he won the company's board as well as his battalion's board, a rare feat, especially for a newly enlisted soldier. From there he advanced to the state competition and then to the regional competition in Fort Pickett, Virginia.

He competed against seven soldiers on August 1, 2007 in phase one of the national competition in Fort Benning, Georgia. The first phase of competition consisted of a series of tests; a 5-mile run, weapons training, first aid, land navigational skills, combat water survival, and an obstacle course all completed within 40 hours on only one hour of sleep. In the second phase of the competition, later in Washington, DC, the seven guardsmen were interviewed by a board of enlisted officers, given a written test and were required to recite the soldier's creed.

On August 15, 2007 it was announced at the National Guard Conference that Specialist Nowak was selected among 350,000 troopers as the 2007 U.S. Army National Guard Soldier of the Year. He will advance to the Army's "Best Warrior" Competition at Fort Lee on September 30, 2007.

Specialist Nowak is currently a military police officer assigned to the 157th MP Company in Martinsburg. Prior to that, he was working as a substitute teacher at North Middle School where his met his wife, Krista. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech and a 1998 graduate of Musselman High School.

I am proud to honor Specialist Erik Nowak for representing the spirit of the Mountain State and the very best of the United States Army. In this time of international struggle, it is an honor to serve such an accomplished young soldier.

CONGRATULATING MS. SHERIDAN GODFREY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Sheridan Godfrey of Centennial, CO, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have

laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Godfrey to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Godfrey and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

REGARDING GENERAL PETRAEUS TESTIMONY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, the purpose of the President's escalation of the war in Iraq was to provide the Iraqi government with the space and security they needed to make real political progress. Unfortunately, it does not appear that meaningful progress has been made. General Petraeus has publicly admitted that the hope he once had that Iraqi leaders would take advantage of the U.S. troop surge efforts to minimize violence and make political gains "has not worked out as we had hoped." Despite the lack of progress, General Petraeus continues to want to stay the failed course. He has asked that the current levels of troops be kept in place until spring 2008.

Violence might be slightly diminishing in provinces where the presence of U.S. troops have been increased by the surge, but an increase of deaths and sectarian violence by car bombs and suicide bombers has increased in other provinces. The last 3 months have claimed the lives of 264 U.S. troops in Iraq, making it the deadliest summer of the war so far. Since the war began, 3,759 U.S. troops have been killed. More than 27,770 have been wounded in combat. In the 32nd Congressional District, 14 brave service members have given the ultimate sacrifice.

A number of recent reports on Iraq contain findings which are different than the testimony delivered today by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. A Government Accountability Office report on Iraq shows that the Iraqi government has failed to meet 15 of 18 benchmarks for success. A report by retired Marine GEN James Jones found that Iraq is still far from being able to take over its own security responsibilities. This report also indicates that the Iraqi Interior Ministry, which runs the security forces, is "dysfunctional,"

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